

Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION



Photo courtesy of Olympia IWW

Coalition Fights Kaiser on the Docks— Is Harassed in Courts

Eric Chase X345160 & Sarah Little X348640

JAIL THE REAL CRIMINAL, JAIL CHARLES HURWITZ

"I ate three thousand Steelworkers for breakfast!," yelled Charles Hurwitz from jail, "and I'm going to eat 65,000 acres of old growth for lunch!"

Olympia and Tacoma IWW members joined striking Steelworkers, Earth First!ers, Jobs with Justice, Longshoremen and representatives from other unions for a rally at the Tacoma Municipal Court House. The rally was in support of seven Earth First! activists that were arrested for their solidarity actions at the Port of Tacoma on December 7th, 1998. Outside the court house a twelve foot puppet of Charles Hurwitz was pushed into a mock jail cell by a giant worker puppet. While the worker puppet danced around the jail cell, activists heckled the CEO of Maxxam Corporation, "Hey Hurwitz, how much money did you make today?! \$480 million?!" referring to his recent conquest

in the Headwaters landswap he extorted from the state of California and the Federal government.

The seven activists were cited for criminal trespassing in an action at the Port of Tacoma where a coalition of Wobblies, Earth First!ers and Steelworkers blockaded an alumina ore ship from docking and supplying Kaiser Aluminum materials to keep their scab factory running. This action cost Kaiser \$38,000 per day.

The activists were charged with "criminal trespassing with the intent to vex the public of Tacoma" after hanging a 40' x 60' banner that read, "HURWITZ CUTS JOBS LIKE HE CUTS TREES." The lawyers were set to use a "defense of others" argument, stating that the activists broke the law by hanging the banner for a greater good—in defense of the Steelworkers, the scabs who were experiencing incredibly high injury rates and the ancient redwoods that Pacific Lumber (a subsidiary of Maxxam), have been destroying.

The defense lawyers never got the chance to use this argument. The trial began with the prosecuting attorney dropping the misdemeanor charges on four of the activists that hung the banner. We thought the trial was over until an undercover detective approached the judge with felony charges of "Malicious Mischief" and a dozen or so police attempted to bar the court room from the demonstrators. The detective arrived at malicious mischief charges trying to connect the banner hanging with an act of sabotage on some ore unloading equipment that occurred after the climbers had left the scene.

Three of the activists were immediately taken to jail by other law enforcement agents that had packed the courtroom (one activist was stuck in a traffic jam and was not present). The remaining three waived their right to a speedy trial and postponed it until June while the defense reevaluates this surprise move by the prosecution.

Meanwhile, demonstrators threw a puppet of Hurwitz in jail, flew a procession of flags and held banners and pickets for the community to see. Wobblies, EF!ers, Steelworkers and members from Jobs with Justice passed out informational flyers as representatives of many organizations soapboxed briefly about solidarity and end-

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Victory For GEO

Wobbly Tactics Get The Goods

The Graduate Employee Organization (GEO/AFT) of the University of Michigan engaged in a warning strike on March 10 and 11. The 1400 member union struck to demonstrate solidarity with the union's negotiating positions and to pressure the University to come to terms with the union's demands. The union has been working without a contract since February. Continuous bargaining occurred from the end of the warning strike until a tentative agreement was reached on March 13. The GEO membership declared that there would have to be substantial movement by the University to avoid yet another strike. As the IW goes to press, the membership voted to send the University's offer of an 11% pay increase, coupled with a reduction in the number of hours in the work week to a ratification vote. The University also agreed to the Union's demand that international graduate students be compensated for the two to three week mandatory training session for new international employees.

The one and half day walkout by the "graduate student instructors" (GSI is the

University's nomenclature for the student/teacher/workers of GEO) affected an undergraduate university population of some 17,000 students and another 17,000 faculty, clerical and support staff. GEO members perform the bulk of undergraduate teaching on the Ann Arbor campus. Picket lines appeared in front of classroom buildings across the central and north campus complexes of the University, forcing the cancellation or disruption of most classes. The strike centered on three basic issues, but fundamentally resulted from the union's complete lack of trust that the union has towards the Administration.

The union's three basic issues were: hours worked; union representation for international students during the training period; and wages. These are core issues for all working people. GEO negotiator Eric Odier-Fink, stated, "We've been losing over the years, compared both to the money the university is taking in and to the local cost of living" (Ann Arbor has one of the highest cost of living in the mid-west). In addition to

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Wobs In Chiapas Work With FAT



Detroit Wobblies have been working closely with organizations and indigenous communities in Chiapas, Mex for the past year. More recently, a delegation of two Wobblies from Detroit have been involved in creating a solidarity camp sponsored by the Detroit GMB and others in cooperation with the Frente Autentico de Trabajo (FAT) in Mexico City.

Before this new situation, Wobs from Detroit tended to work in conjunction with the Irish/Mexico Group in and around the community of Diez de Abril. This community had requested not just international observers to be watchdogs against military

and paramilitary violence but also to exchange ideas and politics. To broaden the experience of all of those involved. To work together, literally in the corn fields and construction projects in the jungle villages as well as more globally by spreading the tone of this revolution through the communities we return to and the world. It is this type of situation that Detroit Wobblies are looking to create along with the indigenous population.

The Zapatistas and their supporters have accomplished many of the things that we as Wobblies hold sacred. They have seized the

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In This Issue...

Mexico News:
The Zapatista Consulta

Explosion at Tosco

Anne Petermann:
Solidarity

How to Start a Union

"Secret Evidence" Law



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By the way, the March issue of the Industrial Worker looks really excellent. It's a testament to the idea of letting new people find their feet.

Chuck O

Dear Editor,

Recently I have heard from people I know something that indicates that they do not understand the reasons for unions or for the IWW. These have told me that they believe unemployment is the result of population growth. Let me state for the record that there is nothing wrong with workers controlling their reproduction but population growth does not cause unemployment! Unemployment is caused by the bosses!

The power of the bosses depends on their ability to hire from a pool of unemployed workers and to fire their workers as they wish. AFL Unions restrict the power of the bosses to hire and fire through so-called "just cause" clauses in union contracts. The IWW goes much further and advocates "One Big Union" for all workers which would overthrow, not just restrict, the bosses!

If unemployment were indeed caused by population growth there would be no need for unions. Workers could get rid of unemployment simply by limiting their reproduction, and the growth of the population. Since this never happens and the bosses are al-

Readers' Soapbox

ways conniving to keep workers unemployed, unions are needed. So is a revolutionary union which seeks to overthrow the capitalist state—not to limit population.

Robert G
St Louis, MO

Sourdough Slim Says. . .

"Now why would you want to join a goddamn union?!" The local shopkeeper (he likes to think of himself as a "businessman") didn't know I already belonged to a union, divine judgment imposed upon it or not, I'm carryin' the red card.

"Well", I began, "can't convince you with much outa' my pork chop chompin' mouth. But I think the fact always help." Now understand that a businessman is not always interested in the facts, such as they are. He's more likely interested in images seen in the facts, such as they are. He's more likely interested in images seen as facts, this is what he uses to sell a lotta' useless junk to some poor duffer

with a buck or two left from his meal ticket (paycheck). Sort of like politics, that - the facts are a consequence and not a basis for anything real.

"The unions are too strong", ol' Shoppy claims. Well I bit my lip and prepared to filibuster, but he went on about how unions are no good 'cause they make wages artificially high and union workers are lazy, blah, blah . . . Of course he had proof! You see, his brother, a union construction worker, never worked as hard as this boss type; and they worked a lot of the same jobs together in the old days. What he failed to mention in the context of this jawin' session was that he's pushin' fifty and has arthritic hands, bad shoulders and high blood pressure. Fast workers die young, as my elders used to say.

So I start to feed him some numbers. You know these business types, they like numbers, and he sure looks like he enjoys eatin', too. "How is it that the unions are inflating

the wages you pay when only 12% of the workforce belongs to a union?" No reply there. "And how is it the unions are so strong when we don't have adequate health care, millions of homeless and jobless, and the top 5% incomes holding 60% of the cabbage?" I heard a gulp, then nothing.

"Yeah, but what about these fat cat union bosses earning the big money off the backs of the workers?"

"You've got that right", I said. "But I don't belong to one of those kinds of unions." I flashed him the red ducat and talked about how there was only one paid officer in this outfit. "Union" and "democracy" weren't words he normally thought of goin' together like eggs and ham. And by the looks of things, he hadn't missed his share lately.

I shouldn't fail to mention that this is the same guy that brags about how his Drublocrat governor gave him a big tax break. cinched up cheaper health care for his family business, all the while tossin' more poor folks into the street with workfare. Now there's a pair o' words that don't jive at all, "work" and "fair." But who am I to say that Mr. Businessman can't have his cake and eat it, too?

Why we've been feedin' those blood-suckers for a thousand or more years. It's high time they start doin' their share of the work. Well, the dough's risin' . . .

Sourdough Slim



IU 120: Lumber Workers
IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 560: Communications Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 640: Restaurant & Hotel Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

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Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace; GMB=General Membership Branch; IU=Industrial Union; Del=Delegate; GOC=Organizing Committee.

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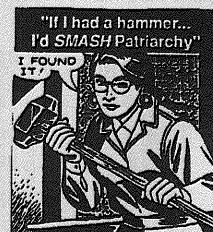
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Boston

In the Boston area there's a GMB and a very active group of Education Workers IU 620 . . . If added together, the Boston area news that comes to my mind is:

*how-to-organize workshop March 14 facilitated by Alexis

*researching potential job shop

*co-organizing 3rd national conference of coalition of contingent academic labor

*maintaining and developing parsons.iww.org internet server

*fund-raising for GHQ (we decided to send Branch portion of dues increases to GHQ)

*developing singing group

In Solidarity,

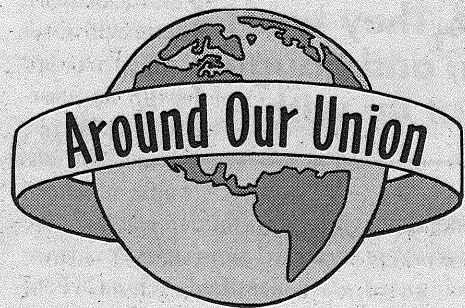
Chris

still with the company and still causing trouble. He's got about a dozen or so people interested in the Union.

We've got office space now, including voice mail and use of a Fax machine, all of it coming from voluntary contributions. Hopefully, this will go a long way into getting a regular schedule and retaining membership. We might also use the space to hold a monthly movie night that a lot of branches have had success with.

The micropower radio project continues. We burnt out a transistor on our transmitter, but should replace that soon. We've got a location picked out were pondering different legal strategies in light of the FCC new noise about Low Power FM.

Flint



Baltimore

Baltimore is coming out of its Winter inactivity (though even that's been fairly active.)

One of our Wobbly construction workers agitated and got a half day walkout at his job (and a two hour lunch the next day.) He since got moved to another job site but is



IWW, EF!, Steelworkers & JWJ

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ing corporate dominance. The Hurwitz puppet was not amused and was taunted with money by demonstrators.

The following day the four defendants charged with felonies were released and the charges dropped in a courtroom filled with more than 50 cheering labor and environmental activists. The case remains "open without prejudice" so it can be further investigated if any more evidence arises.

A rally in Fortuna, California is planned for April 11th in continued solidarity with the United Steelworkers of America. For more information on Kaiser Solidarity, write Olympia IWW at Oly IWW, PO Box 2775, Olympia, WA 98507 USA, or e-mail: olyearthfirst@hotmail.com or erricco@hotmail.com.

How To Form A Labor Union On The Job

By Dave Coker, Industrial Union 640, Delegate #231, Industrial Workers of the World

"Everybody gotta work in this world. Some folks lucky, some folks ain't"

-Mojo Nixon

Truer words have never been spoken like the above quote by that great country-folk-punk laureate, Mojo Nixon. The aforementioned line comes from a song about a chicken processing plant bursting into flames in the sleepy little town of Hamlet, North Carolina. It seems the boss had ordered the exist door chained shut in an effort to keep workers from stealing chickens, or worse yet, going to the bathroom. As a result, those workers were burnt alive. Had there been a Union in place or a pro-Union presence on the job, this sickening incident could have most likely been avoided. This example is one of the more graphic ones that can be used to illustrate how a Union presence on the job could drastically change the well being of the workers. In this case, it meant the difference between life and death.

The cold, hard and pretty much unavoidable fact is that, if you're not already working, you're going to have to get a job at some point. Having to go to work can be an

unpleasant experience in and of itself without having to worry about some asshole boss trying to screw you out of your overtime pay or chain your ass into a burning building. So what is the alternative? The alternative is arming yourself with an understanding of what a labor Union is, how it can benefit you, and how to use (or get around) labor laws when necessary. I've been a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) for about three years now. The IWW not only has a long and proud history of revolutionary labor struggle but is still active today in the labor movement. The following is from the viewpoint of my understanding of revolutionary industrial unionism (read: DIY Unionism) as put forth by the IWW.

What is a Union

Only about 12% of the U.S. working population is unionized. Over the past 60 years Unions and working people have suffered major rollbacks in the gains that were won by struggle in the 1930's. Unions have gone from a viable force in the U.S. tone of mystery and misinformation. There is a

great deal of confusion as to what a Union really is. There is a great deal of confusion as to what a Union really is. Forget Jimmy Hoffa, forget all the mob stories you've heard, the real deal is that the boss can do whatever she or he wants when there is no union in a workplace. Your pay can be cut, you can be fired, unsafe working conditions can be a day to day reality for you on the job. There are next to no limits to the abuse you can suffer in your workplace. It's really hard to win an argument with someone who can fire you. Working people found out a long time ago the hard way that they didn't have any power or protection on the job as individuals. What they also found out was that their voice was much more effective on the job when they acted together as a group. This is what a union is at its very base; an organization of everybody who works for a boss, using their collective strength to 1) Stop the boss from doing what the workers don't want -like firing employees without just cause, awarding jobs or higher wages based on favoritism or discrimination, treating workers unfairly and with disrespect, lowering wages, or lowering safety standards, and 2) Make the boss do what the workers want-like paying higher wages, providing health care and paid leisure time and treating workers with the respect they deserve.

The Legal Process of Organizing a Union

The answer to the question of how to organize at your workplace is certainly one that is more extensive than what I can offer here. There are different situations that are presented at every corner and turn of every organizing campaign. What can be offered here is information on the actual legal process by which unions are recognized on the job as well as a few tried and true tactics that the IWW has been using for nearly a century.

Getting to the point at which you will try to gain union recognition is the hard part. (Gaining union recognition is when your boss officially recognizes the Union and agrees to negotiate workplace terms with the Union.) A majority of your fellow and sister workers will have to join the union for it to serve as the official bargaining agent.

There are not "textbook" organizing campaigns. Every workplace offers a different climate and, in turn, presents different obstacles. Building solidarity with your fellow workers on the shop floor is the key. After that is done there are essentially three ways to win union recognition; voluntary recognition, independent recognition, or a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) election. The voluntary recognition includes situations where the employer, verbally or in writing, accepts the union's claim to represent a majority of employees. Another route to be taken is an independent election to be conducted by another, neutral, third party (other than a governmental body). A swift election resided over by a third party is preferable to the NLRB election which can take 30 days or more. Faced with the demand of union recognition though, employers will usually demand a NLRB election. This allows your boss time to try to convince (or coerce) your fellow workers that they don't want a union. Your employer will prefer a NLRB election because it can be a drawn out and legalistic process that can be postponed for several months. By the time the election comes around many of your union supporters may have been scared out of the union or fired under the guise of misconduct on the job. This will be a crucial time for the organizing campaign. You and your fellow workers will need to seriously consider what resources you have at your disposal to push back any offenses your boss might make. While the NLRB can be a resource, particularly when your boss has started firing union supporters, it can also work in your disfavor. To simply rely on the NLRB and labor laws (many of which aren't suited to real protection for workers) is a poor route to take. Many charges have been filed with the NLRB resulting in a sweeping "legal" victory five-seven years down the road. By this time it doesn't really make any difference as the union is probably long since busted and supporters have moved on to other jobs-there is no union in place to celebrate this hollow victory.

A Union Contract

In theory, the union contract, or collective

PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.**

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

continued on page 10

U.S. Sponsored Terrorism Against the Arab-American Community

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) continues to wage war on ethnic communities with the Antiterrorist and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA), and the resurgence of tactics used during the McCarthy days. The AEDPA was signed into law by President Clinton on April 24, 1996, just around the one year anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. The timing was intentional, not coincidental, in Congress' efforts to prove to U.S. citizens that the government is fighting to combat domestic and international terrorism. Just forget about the fact that the bombing was conceived, planned and enacted by a man from Dexter, Michigan. He was an internal threat, not an external one, yet his legacy lives on in the number of immigrants who have found themselves arrested and detained because of this new law.

The law, coupled with the 1996 immigration laws of IIRIRA, provide for the inadmissibility of a person who is engaged in terrorist activity, is likely to engage in terrorist activity, is a representative of a foreign terrorist organization as designated by the State Department, is a member of a foreign terrorist organization, is a member of an organization that the person "knows or should have known" is a terrorist organization, or if circumstances indicate that the person intends to cause death, bodily harm or incite terrorist activity. The State Department has labeled roughly 30 organizations as terrorist organizations including the Hamas, the Khmer Rouge, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Japanese Red Army. What is not so obvious is that a person can be deported for supporting these organizations in ways that do not even

hint at violence or the support of violence. For example, raising funds five years ago for the spouses and children of imprisoned IRA members could get you deported today. Sending medical supplies to Chiapas could get you deported tomorrow. Participating in a rally in Washington, DC, sponsored by the PLO will mark you.

The two most repressive sections of these laws include INA 504(e) which "prohibits the disclosure of evidence gathered pursuant to intelligence statutes if that disclosure

What we have here (besides a failure to communicate) is a government that is testing the waters. They want to see the public reaction, and gauge just how much we will put up with.

would endanger national security" [read: secret evidence] (Interpreter Releases, Vol. 73, No. 16, p.525), and the establishment of a "removal court" made up of five federal district court judges pursuant to the AEDPA. The prohibition of the disclosure of the intelligence evidence means that neither the defendant nor the defendant's attorney would be allowed to see the classified information upon which the charge for deportation is based. The defendant and attorney must refute charges of which they are completely unaware. There are 25 cases pending in the U.S. in which "secret evidence" is being used; the defendants all of whom are members of the Arabic community by blood or marriage. These antiterrorism tactics are

seen by many as an assault on the Arab communities, much as workplace raids and border patrol arrests are seen as an assault on the Mexican and Latino communities.

Most people are familiar with the terrorist courts implemented by the Fujimoro government in Peru in which suspected terrorists are brought in front of a hooded military court and tried, but are not allowed to refute any of the charges, or even to defend themselves. The courts permitted by the AEDPA may not as yet be this extreme, but the similarities are telling. The defendant in the U.S. is permitted a defense, and will even be provided with an attorney should he or she be unable to afford

one. However, neither the defendant nor the lawyer are permitted access to the evidence being used, as it is classified. At least in Peru the person is advised of the charges against him/her. The courts have not yet been formed, but the implementation is imminent.

In addition, the INS is not introducing the secret evidence according to the actual legislation in IIRIRA, but according to legislation used in the 1950s, during the McCarthy era, in which secret evidence was used against communists. What we have here (besides a failure to communicate) is a government that is testing the waters. They want to see the public reaction, and gauge just how much we will put up with. We are

the proverbial frog in the pot of slowly warming water; if they raise the temperature slowly, they hope we just won't figure out what's going on..

If all of this is not yet bad enough, the U.S. Supreme Court last month made a ruling with horrendous implications. Although the terrorist cases brought on with the use of "secret evidence" pending today are from legislation dating back to the 50s, this decision by the U.S. Supreme Court is based on the IIRIRA changes to the Immigration and Nationality Act. The Justice Department argued that the 1996 law took away the authority of the federal court to review the constitutional claims of a group of immigrants known as the LA 8, seven of whom are Jordanian and one who is Kenyan. The INS attempted to deport them for belonging to an international terrorist organization. A federal judge in LA ruled against the INS, and the decision was upheld by the appeals court. The INS then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court which determined that the federal courts do not have jurisdiction over this type of case. Justice Antonin Scalia agreed with the argument that the 1996 law "deprives the federal courts of jurisdiction... Judicial review of these proceedings is unavailable" (Arab American Journal, Vol. II, No. 18, p. 5).

A community of immigrants now finds itself in the position of defending itself against governmental assaults brought upon them because of anti-immigrant sentiment, and blatant racism against their community fueled by misunderstanding and gross media misrepresentation of the Arab world.

by Elen Fawr

THEY HAVE TAKEN UNTOLD MILLIONS



WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY APRIL 28, 1999

"WE JUST COME TO WORK HERE... WE DON'T COME TO DIE."

GREED KILLS

FIGHT BACK

WORKPLACE ILLNESS & INJURY KILLS ONE AMERICAN WORKER EVERY 8 MINUTES.

Capital Must Come Down words and music by Chris Pelton

The dark hand of misery always grips a gun and casts its shadow on the ground
There'll be no peace or rest 'til we all walk in the sun

Capital must come down

They say we must be bound and business must be free to trample the whole world 'round
But down beneath their towers there's a cracking in the streets

Capital must come down

The cries of the hungry and the voices of the banned under the machinery drown
But that roar will die to nothing when outside the walls we stand

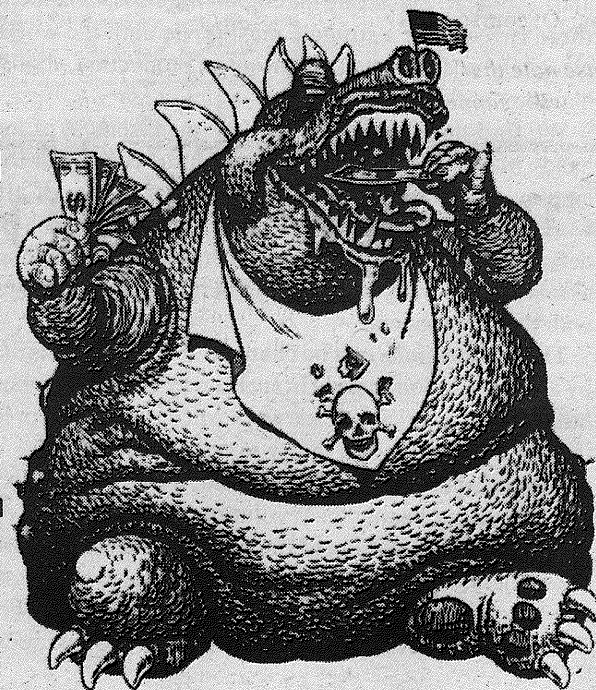
Capital must come down

Who runs the factories, who tills the land, who raised the cities and towns?

That which we have built we together must command

Capital must come down

The cruel hand of greed will always reach for more and cut our wages and children down
The darkness it is deep and the road ahead unsure, but Capital must come down.



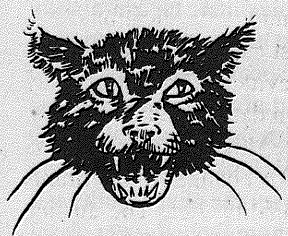
copyright 1999

Chris Pelton x346939

For an audio copy, send a blank cassette to UT Station Box 16010, Knoxville, TN 37996 USA

Get 'Em Sabo Kitties!!

Miguel y Carolina



Our heartfelt support and congratulations go out to Fellow Workers Miguel and Carolina, who under conditions of great adversity (a robbery; police, military and immigration harassment; and a tragic bus crash), managed to establish our support camp in Chiapas and a safe house in San Cristobal de Las Casas for IWW volunteers. Their courageous efforts have made our vision of sharing the work with the Zapatistas and Frente Autentico de Trabajo (FAT) a reality.

"Get down with La Lucha!," Carolina

Sister and Fellow Workers,

You may be wondering how this column has been written over the last couple of months. Basically this gives members of this collective an opportunity to make themselves known to you by name as well as giving the readership a glimpse of the diversity of each individual's focus and passions. All of the diverse views put forward within this column are just that, diverse views. None of our opinions determine the direction or focus of the IW by themselves, but instead we tend to check and balance each other all the time. Some would say too much. Others, not enough. You can't please everybody all of the time.

Myself, I am a queer Wobbly trucker, which may not put me in a *unique* position, but I have as yet to meet another one. Right now I am in the process of attempting to organize my place of work and, if that occurs, I can tell you that I won't be the only one.

Organizing is not just a matter of keeping one's "fingers crossed" though, and I have invested the cost of many beers and a lot of time talking to my fellow workers. I've also spent a lot of time trying to trace the negative reaction that so many people have to the word "union."

For instance, and we could all give many examples, I was transporting Peter Frampton's equipment from show to show around Michigan when it came time to drive the stuff to the Flint airport. I had a roadie with me to oversee the move. The strike in Flint was in its second week. "I hate unions," he said, "all they do is strike. They shouldn't even have that right."

When someone says something like this I am blown away by how often people just repeat what they heard somewhere else. I just want to grab them and say, "Where did you hear that! Tell me what *you* think for a change!" It eventually came out that his grandfather had told him and, when pressed, he had neither the experience of, nor an opinion on, unions that was actually his own. I think I gave him one when he asked me if I was supposed to help him load the plane. Of course I was but, "Oh no, I'm only

responsible for getting it there," was what came out of my mouth.

As a trucker I spend quite a bit of time on the CB talking to other truckers out in the field. Unfortunately there is a pervasive attitude among drivers that union shops are "lazy" and "full of attitude." What many people view as laziness, I often say, comes more from the fact that we have been raised to believe that we need to kill ourselves for the boss. For six or seven or twelve dollars an hour we are expected to trash our bodies and blindly dispense of our free time to survive the experience of work. I do tend to think that many union shops I go to have been handed their present situation on the blood and sweat and tears of a former generation. They need to be reminded, sometimes rather loudly, what solidarity means and what it can accomplish.

As a queer person I feel like I have specific experiences as well. And, contrary to popular belief, they are not all of the oppressive variety.

Editor's Notebook

I love being queer and I love the life of being a queer trucker.

What I hate is the fact that in 41 states in this country I can be fired for that reason alone and have zero recourse, legally, for the stupidity of my employer. What I hate is in most of the factories I deliver to I must ignore this huge part of my identity because there may be people who want to kill me. Don't get me wrong, I can't keep silent all the time and when my voice does come out on a warehouse dock or picket line the outcome is often nothing short of poetic.

I am presently working on a future piece for the IW on this subject and have been requesting experiences from Queer Wobblies about this issue. When I first joined the IWW three years ago I was shocked by the number of queers I met and would like to give us a voice in the labor arena.

Until this machine breaks down and the gears turn to dust. John Eaton X346346

Please note that Alexis Buss' "Wobbling The Works" & Carlos Cortez's "The Left Side" will reappear in the next issue of the Industrial Worker.

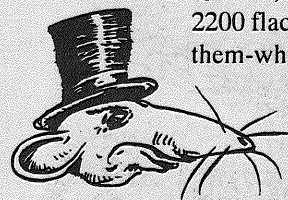
One More Dirty Rat

Burson-Marsteller, The World's Largest PR (propaganda) Firm, represents such corporate "baddies" and government goons as: Occidental Petroleum, Dow Corning, DuPont, Monsanto, Procter & Gamble, Caterpillar, McDonnell Douglas, General Electric, Hydro-

Quebec, El Salvador, Mexico and Nigeria (just to name a few). Using 2200 flacks (PR reps), a dozen fake grassroots groups and 100's of buy-

them-while-they're-hot "scientists" worldwide, Burson-Marsteller lies to the public and spins the media to benefit Earth-wrecking and often genocidal clients. These shady customers pay a hefty sum for their invented respectability, about a quarter of a billion dollars last fiscal year alone. This PR firm "expropriates and exploits the democratic rights of millions on

behalf of big business by fooling the public about the issues," says John Stauber, editor of PR Watch.



Among the newsletters that cross this desk on a fairly regular basis is that of the Maritime Trades Department of the AFL-CIO. I skim through these things to see if there might be anything of interest for the Industrial Worker. Usually it's a quick process with little or no positive results. The lead story in the January Issue was about the cruise industry killing our oceans. Unfortunately the article seemed to primarily be using complaints about ocean pollution to lament that cruise ships are registering under foreign flags and taking themselves out from under control of the U.S. government. Of course no U.S.- flag vessel would ever pollute. (My tongue's about to come through my cheek.)

Then there was some oobladec about the 1999 U.S. Congress and the need to fight against rollbacks. They even used one of my favorite slogans: "Keep your eyes on the prize." But among the "prizes" they mentioned was preventing privatization of social security. Never thought of merely keeping what we presently have as a prize. Congratulations, you just won the lottery. And the "prize" is the money in your pocket.

Another "prize" was a strong U.S. - flag merchant marine and domestic shipbuilding

from the desk of...

industry. That would seem to me to be a prize for the U.S. capitalist class, not the U.S. or any other working class. I look forward to a day when ships will sail under a worker flag rather than one that seems to my tired old eyes to have \$\$ signs and blood as a background. Not being of the mind that the problems of the working class can be solved by national chauvinism in the face of international capital, most of these sorts of newsletters are a mild irritant if not good bedtime reading when your goal is to go to sleep quickly.

But there was one article that caught my attention. "U.S. - Flag Vessels Support Operation Desert Fox." It was accompanied by a cartoon depicting smiling merchant sailors on a vessel sailing under a U.S. flag passing a buoy holding a sign reading "Persian Gulf, 8,000 mi." The sailors are shouting in unison: "We're ready, willing, and able!": ready, willing, and able to die; ready, willing, and able to help kill; ready, willing, and able to promote the interests of the bosses against our own.

The article says 10 U.S. - flag vessels and civilian crews provided logistical support to American and British forces during the mid-December bombardment of Iraq. Of course it places responsibility for the bombing on Saddam Hussein for refusing to cooperate with UNSCOM (United Nations Special Commission) inspectors, some of whom have recently been exposed as U.S. spies.

MTD President Michael Sacco (Nicola Sacco must be twirling in his grave.) says if a massive deployment of U.S. troops and supplies had been necessary, "all segments of the U.S. maritime industry - civilian mariners, shipbuilders and longshore workers - were, and still are, ready, willing and able, just as we were in 1991." I have to wonder if they'd be so ready and willing if they knew any of the 1.5 million plus Iraqi victims of the U.N. (read U.S. and those whose arms it managed to twist) sanctions personally. I don't think they'll be so willing when they come to realize that the interests of U.S. workers do not lie with Clinton and Blair or the bosses they serve any more than the interests of Iraqi workers lie with Saddam. The interests of workers lie with workers. The attempts of politicians, capitalists, and union bosses like Sacco to convince workers that their interests lie elsewhere is a con.

According to the article 95% of the cargo for Operation Desert Storm in '91 went by sea, 80% of that on U.S. - flag vessels, "and none of those ships were left waiting at the docks for crews." Sigh. It goes on to say the main difference between the '91 Gulf war and Operation Desert Fox was that many of the nations that offered logistical support then either opposed this action or remained on the sidelines. That's progress to my mind. But according to Sacco, "This shows that we have to be able to stand alone."

Weeelll, I find myself thinking that the U.S. is indeed likely to stand alone as more and more nations become uncomfortable with the arrogance and immorality of U.S. foreign policy. And I find myself imagining what could happen if these merchant sailors took a good look at that policy and realized that once again they as workers are being used to support the killing of workers in one more war where no one profits but the bosses. What if 80% of the cargo necessary to conduct Operation Desert Fox hadn't shown up? What if all of those ships were left waiting at the docks for crews? The power to stop war against the working class, (and I have a hard time thinking of a war short of class war which isn't against the best interests of the working class,) is in the hands of the workers. When they choose to exercise that power, we'll be headed toward a much more peaceful world.

Hoping to see you on a picket line at the docks one of these days when the workers finally say Enough!

Solid,
Fred Chase

Charlene "Charlie" Sato Memorial Fund

Deborah Richards, Cambridge, MA, \$5

Fighting Fund

Tom Gilliam, Duluth, MN, \$15 • Chris Pelton, Knoxville, TN, \$4

Bob Heald, Montpelier, VT, \$50 • Grace Brockman, Salyer, CA, \$25

Glen Schaub, Butte, MT, \$10 • Boston GMB, \$814.07

IW Sustaining Fund

Michael Andrus & Louise Guay-Andrus, Missoula, MT, \$10

John Liebau, Springfield, PA, \$10 • Deborah Richards, Cambridge, MA, \$5

McArthur Gunter, Camp Springs, MD, \$18.86

Tom Johnson, Newmarket, NY, \$20

POLISH Regional Organizing Committee Solidarity Fund

A few weeks ago our Fellow Workers in Poland requested assistance in purchasing a copier to help spread the word. They can buy a used copier for c. \$600 and have requested assistance with half of that price, \$300. Donations to date:

Greg Alt, Seattle, WA, \$25 • David Witbrodt, Auburn, MI, \$10

Rochelle Semel, Hartwick, NY, \$10 • Deke Nihilson, San Fran., CA, \$10

Mike Balalrd, Palo Alto, CA, \$10 • Fred Chase, Ypsilanti, MI, \$10

Mark Damron, Cincinnati, OH, \$10 • Mary Beijian, Ann Arbor, MI, \$25

Detroit Wobs in Chiapas *continued from page 1*

means of production collectivizing the coffee plantations and corn milpas, they have abolished the wage system in their communities by the same means of collectivization and live in basic harmony with the earth (electricity is scarce, plumbing more so and luxuries such as gas stoves are virtually nonexistent).

A basic understanding of capitalism as an outdated and immoral system is inherent in everyday activity and discussion on the communities. It is no wonder why every force in the region is bent upon their destruction and there is a real threat of the situation escalating into another El Salvador.

These are the reasons why the need for international observers is so urgent. Through interaction with these communities we do not only act as a barrier to illegal violence and interference, but also come away from the experience educated as to other ways to reach our goals of workers' independence from this wage slave system which threatens to undermine our freedom and control over our own lives daily. Every day is a fight, a class war. Education and experience is another way to arm yourself.

The following correspondence from Detroit Wobblies was received at the Ypsilanti office in mid-February:

Fellow Workers!

Greetings from far flung Detroit Wobblies Miguel y Carolina. We have recently relocated to Mexico's southernmost state of Chiapas.

We're sure many of you already know the skinny on the situation down here, but for those of you who don't, please allow us to break down the basics.

On January 1st, 1994 members of various indigenous communities in Chiapas, Mex rose up together and became known to

the world as Zapatistas. Tired of working the fincas in near slavery conditions, they seized the land and sent their bosses running. After the land grabs, they abolished the wage system and collectivized the wealth. They have been doing their best since then to live in harmony with the earth. This has not been an easy task due to constant attacks from the U.S. backed Mexican army and paramilitary groups. It is for this reason they have asked the civil society of the world for help. The long and short of the situation is that the Zapatistas are not going to win an armed struggle against a professional army backed by every capitalist in the world. It is also true that the Mexican government and their paramilitary groups cannot destroy them while under the eyes of the world. This is why an international presence is maintained in as many communities as possible.

This brings us to the current project we are hoping to involve you in. Until the month of July we are going to be down here facilitating the participation of North American with the Zapatista struggle.

On our way down to Chiapas we had the pleasure of meeting with a member from Frente Autentico de Trabajo (FAT) (or Authentic Worker's Front); an autonomous union based in Mexico City. They offered to host as many Wobs/others as we can muster on their way down. Further, they strongly suggested that if the IWW and FAT are going to work more closely together, and clearly we should, we should send a delegation to them. Their idea was that if we could send 3 or 4 Wobs to spend a few weeks with them in Mexico City it would put us in a position to better understand each other and work together more effectively. If this delegation could then spend two weeks with us in Chiapas, we would have some very well-rounded contact people back home and hopefully get back on track rebuilding the IWW's strong ties to Mexico. Also, we would like

people to start thinking about spending time down here with us to make this project a success. FAT has agreed to send us people regularly and it would be a shame if we don't match 'em@! We especially need people for March, April and May.

If you decide you would like to come down, this is basically what the project would entail for you. First you will have to contact our organizer at the IWW office in Ypsilanti, SW Ingrid. Ingrid will set you up with the application project. From her you will also receive information/tips for getting to Chiapas and making contact with us (assuming you pass the application process). When you get here, we will set you up with a place to stay in our IWW house of Solidarity while you set yourself up to go out to a community. During this time we will fill you in on the current situation, where you'll be going and what you can expect. You must be aware that going out to the communities involves the risk of being questioned, harassed by officials of the Mexican government and, although unlikely, the possibility of being deported. Once we

get out to the community your main responsibility will be to act as a presence to keep the Mexican army civil in case they should come in.

We would also like branches to consider continuing this project when we leave at the beginning of July. For this project to continue once our time is up, we need not only observers, but people who can commit to being "responsables" here for a minimum of one month at a time. A Responsable needs to be able to speak Spanish, be aware of the situation and arrive in time to do a week's training with the Responsable s/he will be replacing. We look forward to seeing some of you here over the next months and promise to send a more factual letter about the current situation.

Solidarity,
Miguel y Carolina

Please send requests for applications to:
Ingrid
c/o IWW
103 W. Michigan Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
USA
Ore-mail at: gmb@iww.org attn: solidarity camp

Petition in Support of the Zapatistas and National and International Consultation

To Local, National and International Press
To President Clinton
To President Zedillo
To Members of Congress
To All Mexican Consulates and Embassies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, as people of all nationalities, social, religious and political backgrounds, genders, ages and sexual orientations.

In signing this petition, as women, men, youth, elderly, housewives, students, professionals, unemployed, gays and lesbians, taxpayers, retired persons, peoples of color, immigrants, workers and Indigenous peoples, WE WANT OUR VOICES TO BE HEARD.

In signing this petition, we want to express our humanitarian concerns and political will that knows no borders.

In signing this petition we would like to express the following:

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES ARE AGAINST:

*Any efforts by the Mexican Government, Army or associated groups to disrupt or use violence against the 5,000 Zapatista delegates and participants in the upcoming national consultation on peace and indigenous rights in Mexico.

*Low intensity war in Chiapas that is being waged against the indigenous peoples who struggle for a life of dignity.

*Continued militarization of Chiapas by the Mexican Army through direct and indirect support of pro government paramilitary groups.

*Continued U.S. military aid to Mexico.

*The denial of indigenous rights in Mexico

*Ongoing marginalization and impoverishment of all Mexican peoples as a result of destructive neoliberal policies in Mexico that are implemented by the Mexican Government, in accordance with the will of the U.S. Government, Wall Street, transnational corporations and international financial interests.

*The denial of basic human and civil rights of documented and undocumented Mexican immigrants in the United States.

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN VOICING OUR OPPOSITION TO DEATH, POVERTY AND OPPRESSION THAT IS CARRIED OUT BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, AND DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, VOICE OUR ADAMANT SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

*The Zapatistas' efforts towards peace and democratic change through the national and international consultation on peace and indigenous rights in Mexico.

*Immediate demilitarization of the indigenous communities in Chiapas and other parts of Mexico.

*The immediate end to all U.S. military

assistance to Mexico.

*An end to low-intensity war, and the renewal of a meaningful and constructive dialogue for peace in Chiapas.

*Full implementation of the San Andres agreements on indigenous rights.

*An end to destructive neoliberal political, social and economic policies in Mexico and the United States.

*Respect for the human and civil rights of documented and undocumented Mexican Immigrant in the United States.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

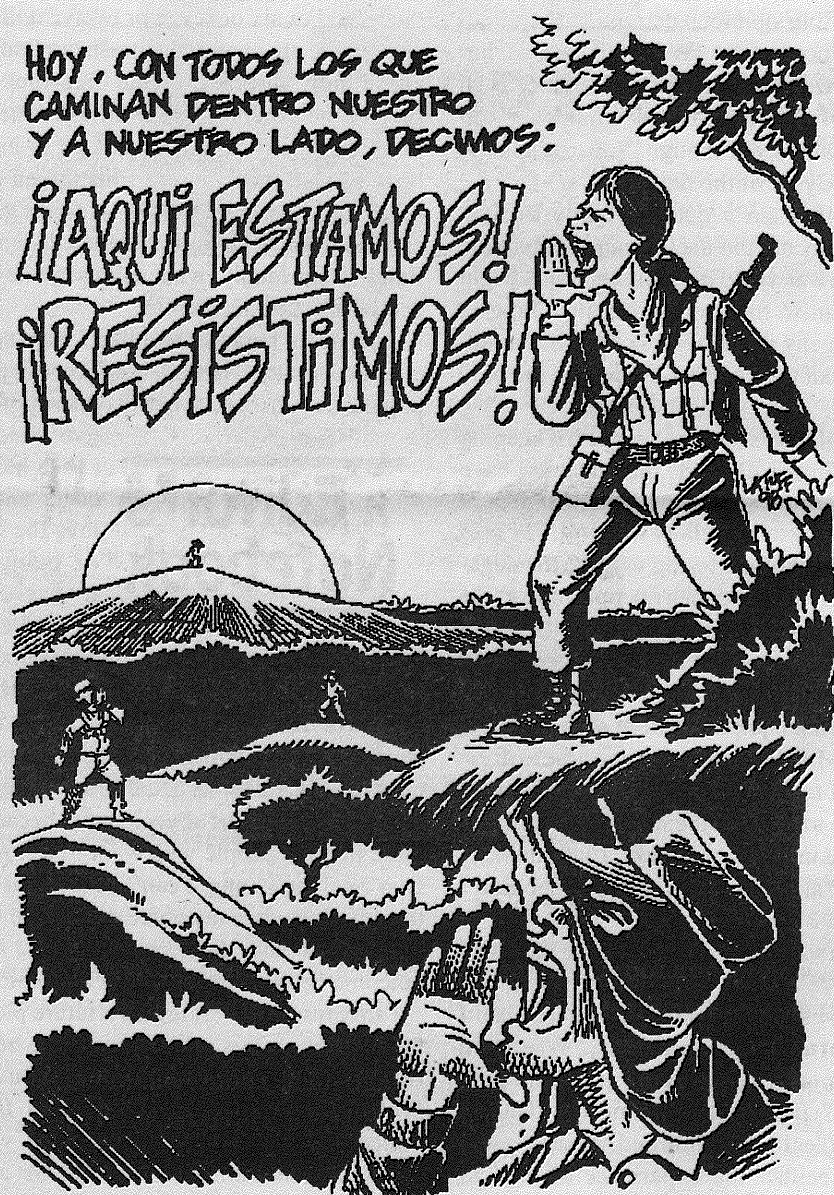
WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, in signing this petition demand that our voices be heard. We will no longer tolerate a war against indigenous peoples and those who struggle for democracy, social justice, peace, and a political space where EVERYONE may have a voice, and the ability to actively participate in the decisions that directly affect their communities, families, livelihoods and environment. We support the Zapatistas' peaceful efforts to

end the war in Chiapas, to gain legal recognition for indigenous rights, to support democracy in Mexico, and the political, civil and human rights of all Mexicans on both sides of the border.

WE THE PEOPLE, NOW AND WILL CONTINUE, TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY AND RESISTANCE WITH OUR MEXICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

SIGNED:
NAME
CITY, STATE

Please send petitions to:
NCDM
5902 Monterey Road, #194
Los Angeles, CA 90042
Tele: 323-261-9574
Fax-323-254-9597
Toll Free: 800-405-7770
Email: moonlight@igc.apc.org
Web page: www.icgc.org/ncdm



International Paper and Eucalyptus in SE Mexico

by Orin Langelle
reprinted from
Native Forest Network Bulletin

International Paper Company's vision statement reads "ethical behavior and personal integrity are the core of our culture. With customers and facilities around the globe, we answer to the world".

One of Mexico's largest multinationals, Grupo Pulsar, and the US-based International Paper Company (IP), the largest paper company in the world, are planning eucalyptus plantations for pulp, paper and lumber production on indigenous and ejido lands in southeastern Mexico, including Chiapas. Because eucalyptus is notoriously greedy for water and nutrients, the areas selected for eucalyptus plantations are condemned to desertification.

Big Timber Versus the Zapatistas

The timber industry is one of the biggest global industries, behind telecommunications and the auto industry. The power and weight of the timber industry's influence in

Chiapas is evidenced by the manipulation of Article 27 and the rewriting of other new laws to open up Mexico for timber exploitation.

Article 27 was written as a result of the Mexican Revolution of 1910, spearheaded by rebels such as Emiliano Zapata. Article 27 promised agrarian reform and land redistribution to peasant communities.

A precondition for Mexico entering the North American Free Trade Agreement was reform of Article 27. It was rewritten by forestry under-secretary Luis Tellez (later Mexican President Zedillo's chief of staff and now energy secretary) to permit the privatization of communal land holdings, so agrarian lands could be purchased by the timber industry to grow eucalyptus. It was partly the reform of Article 27 which forced the Zapatistas to declare war on the government.

Tellez authorized two subsequent laws: a 1992 forestry law that allowed commercial tree plantations and a 1997 revision of the law that literally granted big timber's wishes. The new regulations implemented a series of proposals made in a June 1995 letter to

Tellez from Edward Krobacher, IP's forestry division Vice President. Big timber could now receive hefty subsidies to acquire land parcels of unlimited size.

John Ross, in the Mexican daily La Jornada recently reported, "finally, International Paper and its counterparts gained government protection against the resolution on the uncertain situation in Chiapas, where Krobacher promised to dedicate 400,000 hectares to cellulose production (eucalyptus). The military fence around the EZLN and its supporters has been a palpable demonstration of the commitment by the government of Ernesto Zedillo to the security of transnational corporations".

IP: Multinational Paper Behemoth

On November 24, 1998, IP announced its money saving merger with Union Camp. The combined net sales for both IP and Union Camp reached \$24.5 billion in 1997. Big business means big abuses as International Paper, the largest land holder in the US, has a horrific reputation for employee

health and safety, union relations and environmental destruction.

Uniting Struggles Against IP and Globalization

As social change and ecological movements grow and unite, many people globally are understanding that environmental devastation and human suffering are just different sides of the same coin. Action for Community and Ecology in the Rainforest of Central America (ACERCA) and other groups are calling for IP to "answer to the world" with regard to its blatant disregard for the indigenous peoples, native species and forests of Chiapas and elsewhere.

This is an excellent opportunity to tie local struggles to global ones and vice versa. This campaign intends to open up dialogue and common ground with the movement for social justice and human rights.

To contact ACERCA, write to POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402; (802)863-0571 fax 864-8203; acerca@sover.net

Himno Zapatista (musica/Carabina 30-30, Letra/Zapatistas de EZLN)



CHORUS: Vamos, vamos, vamos, vamos adelante, para que salgamos en la lucha avante
Porqué nuestra patria grita y necesita de todo el esfuerzo de los Zapatistas

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1
Ya semira el horizonte
combatiente Zapatista el
camino marcaran los que
vienen más atras
(CHORUS) | 2
Hombres, niños y
mujeres el esfuerzo
siempre haremos
campesinos, los obreros
todos juntos con el
pueblo (CHORUS) | 3
Nuestro pueblo exige
ya acabar la explotación.
Nuestra historia dice ya
lucha deliberación
(CHORUS) | 4
Ver que planes hay que
hacer y hacer una
consigna que vivamos
por la patria o morir por
la libertad
(CHORUS) |
|--|--|--|--|

Thirst for Oil Leads to Murder in Colombia: 3 US Activists Killed

by Anne Petermann

"We have decided to unite in our desire to live, and therefore we have begun to convince an elder spirit to protect Ruirá (oil) to take care of our Kera Chicara (sacred land) and to save us all from the final destruction when instead of water we'll drink oil, when the earth will have been completely bled dry and the heart, in which our people live, doesn't beat anymore, and when we will no longer be there singing and dancing to the sound of those heartbeats."

— U'wa Pueblo, August 1998

In yet another shocking incident of multinational corporate ventures leading to senseless murder, on March 4th, three US activists were found assassinated in Colombia. They had been in the region working in support of the U'wa people, who had been

opposing Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum's oil exploration on their ancestral lands. Although the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) took responsibility for the murders, the responsi-

lines of the war for the land are on the traditional territories of native peoples.

The world's multinational corporations and the governments which support and subsidize them, led by the U.S. are to blame.

SOLIDARITY

bility for the conditions which lead to them lies with Occidental Petroleum.

The pattern is one which has been going on for centuries. And it continues to this very day. From Wounded Knee in South Dakota to the Lacandon rainforest of Chiapas, Mexico; from the Ogoni people of Nigeria to the Yanomami of Brazil, the front

Globalized capitalism is their weapon of mass destruction and they leave in their wake environmental devastation and utter despair. All is expendable in the quest for the better bottom line, the quest for power.

continued on page 12

Mexican Mineworkers Strike

On Thursday, February 11, the leadership of the Section 65 for the National Mineworkers Union of Mexico, under intense pressure from the National Leadership of the union (a leadership tied to the PRI—the governing party of the country) voted to call off the strike that had been going on in Cananea since late November of 1998. The strike was called off without any of the workers' demands being met. At a general assembly meeting on February 12, the workers rejected the leadership's call and voted overwhelmingly to go back out on strike, this time demanding as well the renationalization of the copper mine (which had been privatized some 8 years ago).

The morning of the 13th of February, the mineworkers, their families and the Women's Front in Defense of Cananea voted to occupy the mine and to place barricades throughout the city in anticipation of an army siege. Government troops have been mobilized and are headed towards Cananea. Supporters of the mineworkers are calling on the International labor movement and supporters of labor and democratic rights to pledge their support for the mineworkers struggle and to call on the authorities to meet the demands of the striking miners.

Historically in every country miners' struggles have been some of the most difficult and violent. Miners' work is one of the most dangerous industries in the world. As with other miners' struggles, this one will take the solidarity of Wobblies and other labor organizations in order to be successful. The Sonora and Mexican government need to know that the international community is aware of the situation.

Please send correspondence to:

Gemma Lopez-Limon

Chair, Cananea Mineworkers Support Committee for Baja California and Sonora
glopez@faro.ens.uabc.mx

Other numbers which may be of interest:

Dr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon

President of Mexico

Fax: 011-525-516-5762

Lic. Armando Lopez Nogales

Governor of the State of Sonora

Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico

Fax: 011-562-17-41-26

BEET HARVEST '97 words by Paul Walker

They say the beets we pile end on end could reach the moon
So I sit beneath its cold white glare but I just swing the boom
The sugar count is up or down I haven't got a clue
But somebody does I'm sure
Somebody does
Oh, somebody does I'm sure

They hauled 100 truckloads from the beet piles today
They shipped them to the factory to refine the season's pay
The rest are for the company and there's one thing I'm sure
That they will surely get their due
They'll get their due
Oh yes they are gonna surely get their due

My headache's full of diesel and my hands they won't come clean
My eyes grind fertilizer dust every time I blink
My skin is dry and blotchy and I just can't shake this stink
And it's only been ten days
Ten f**king days
Yes it's only been ten days

We got free egg McMuffins because layoffs are today
They're raffling off their jackets with their millions on the way
The supervisors watch us from their '97 trucks
But it's Saturday and pitchers are two bucks
Just my luck
Yes it's Saturday and pitchers are just two bucks

Harvesting beets for the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative is seasonal labor in Central Minnesota, a common employer of Mexican and "punk" labor. In the harvest season of 1997 FW's Paul Walker and John Eaton began work on a "Worker's Opera" based on experiences at the piling sites. Every word of the above song is true. The tune is "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" continuing the Wobbly tradition of using the Jesus tunes because they are pretty and changing the words so they make more sense.

California Refinery Fireball Kills Four

A massive fireball killed four workers and critically injured another at the Tosco Avon refinery near San Francisco. Shortly after noon on February 23, the flash fire engulfed the plant's 133-foot high crude processing unit and the five maintenance workers who were repairing a 6-inch pipe attached to the tower. All were severely burned and sent crashing through scaffolding.

Contra Costa County fire officials said the preliminary investigation indicated that residual naphtha, a by-product of crude oil, overheated and exploded.

Communities for a Better Environment of Contra Costa (CBE) says the incident is the latest in a series of accidents at the plant which has the worst safety record of refineries in the East Bay. In January 1997 an explosion and fire killed one worker and injured 26 more. CalOSHA fined Tosco \$277,750 for 22 safety violations. The company is appealing the fine. Tosco also paid \$450,000 in fines to the county. The federal Environmental Protection Agency said the 1997 tragedy resulted from inadequate training of workers. EPA said Tosco maintained an unsafe workplace, had unsafe equipment and used risky work processes to keep production going.

Denny Larson of CBE called for criminal investigation of Tosco. "No level of a fine will hurt a multi-billion dollar corporation like Tosco," he said. Larson reported that CBE had received an anonymous tip the day of the accident that there was a leak at the plant. He said the investigators should find out "why workers were fixing it while the machine was operating."

Antony Cregget, a thirteen year Tosco employee who worked on the tower, said that a pinhole leak was discovered two weeks before the accident. The company has since acknowledged this is true. "We needed it to be shut down two weeks ago," says Cregget, "but the idea to shut it down was shot down. The decisions that come at this plant come from the top. It could have been avoided. It should have been shut down before they

tried to repair it."

Tosco spokesperson, Linda Saltzman, tried to shift blame for the accident to the dead workers, "He has no excuse for not accepting responsibility for whatever work is in his control."

"I told them, 'I'm not going to be your fall guy,'" said Cregget.

The fatal accident two years ago prompted the county to enact stricter laws late last year. CBE, concerned that the new law didn't go far enough, has sued for stronger language. Larson says, "These accidents keep occurring, and will keep occurring, until the county has the ability to require these facilities to install advanced safety control equipment to prevent these accidents."

The counties Hazardous Materials Commission voted 6 to 3 to urge county supervisors to shut the plant immediately and keep it closed until safety can be assured. Commission member Stuart Shoults, a safety consultant, says Tosco's explosions, fires and releases are reaching "an increasingly catastrophic level...we don't seem to be having these problems at other refineries."

In a preliminary report filed by Tosco, the company admitted that about 100 gallons of naphtha remained in a worn out segment of pipe which was bolted to the tower. Naphtha leaked out of the cut openings, hit a hot surface on the tower and ignited. Crude oil entering the tower is heated as high as 750 degrees Fahrenheit.

In early March, Tosco announced a temporary shut down of the 85 year old refinery described by union people as the worst in the area. Tosco CEO Thomas O'Malley made a veiled threat, "I'm not going to bring this refinery back up if it can't be run safely."

"Cutting back on safety, cutting back on the workforce, cutting back on environmental programs can spell disaster, and that's what we're seeing," says CBE's Larson.

Derek Akshun

Victory For GEO

continued from page 1

the minimum 11% pay increase over three years, nearly a third of the membership will have their positions reclassified resulting in nearly \$1000 pay increase the first year. Other pay increases range from \$200 to \$500 in the first year depending on hours worked and \$500 to \$1500 over the life of the agreement.

The calculation that the university uses to determine part-time teaching appointments was critical to the union's struggle. Most GSI's in the Literature and Arts departments (sociology, english, foreign languages, political science etc.) were considered 0.4 appointments, supposedly working 40% of a 40 hour work week. Most of these GSI's were in fact expected to work 20 hours or more. The reclassification of these positions as 0.5 appointments along with a cap of 22 hours per week for 0.5 appointments (a reduction from the 28-hour cap currently in place) will mean an increase in the wage and hour package of over 20%. Most math and science GSI's are already 0.5 appointments. The change in the cap will shorten members' work week, or result in their reclassification as 0.6 appointments with a corresponding pay increase.

The last full-scale walkout by GEO occurred in 1975 when it struck for recognition. Though the union has existed at the university for 25 years, it faces the daunting task of maintaining its organization and solidarity with a perennially changing work force. It is extremely rare to find a student/

teacher/worker with more than 6 or 7 years of seniority. The GSI's maximum guarantee is ten semesters of employment. During the course of a three year contract GEO can see as much as a 50% change in its membership.

GEO's response to this reality has been to engage in militant job actions. Over the years these have included quickie strikes (like the above), teach-ins, mass rallies, demonstrations, and selective job actions by department. The warning strike was called

both to prove to the University that the membership was with the union, and also to organize and mobilize the membership in the event of the need for future actions.

Following the 1975 strike, GEO languished in a "mediation/arbitration" business union mentality. As the IWW reestablished itself in Michigan in the late 70's and early 80's a growing number of Wobblies found themselves two-

carders in GEO. By the late 80's and early 90's GEO had adopted a militant direct action strategy encompassing the tactics described above. The rank and file of the union maintains democratic control and leadership of the organization through mass membership meetings that determine negotiating goals and strategy. Actions are planned and authorized by the membership. Steve Arellano, GEO press coordinator stated, "Many of us recognize that direct action is the way to go, and the success of our walkout demonstrates this very clearly."

Jeff Van Dyke



Short Takes From The Line Tales of Solidarity From GEO Strikers

At the end of the one and a half day walkout a rally was held in front of the building where the union and university negotiators were going to meet. We packed the entire area between the steps and the street and chanted "What do we want? Contract! When do we want it? Now!" After a day and a half on the line in freezing temperatures, we were loud! About 150 students followed union negotiators to a small lobby outside the negotiation room. We continued chanting, adding new chants along the same theme. We were waiting for the university negotiators to join our bargaining team, and they were late! Union president, Eric Dirnbach, decided that the university negotiators couldn't hear us calling them, so we lined both sides of the hallway down to their office. We continued chanting, and were accompanied by our very own bagpiper—hearing the melancholy tones of the bagpipes echoing off the walls and the ceiling of that narrow hallway was a totally unique experience.

We waited for over 30 minutes, and then three University police officers arrived. They didn't say anything to us, they just walked past us and went into the office. They came out a few minutes later and informed FW Dirnbach that the University Negotiators would not come out while we were standing in the hall—we all sat down.

They said we couldn't hold our picket signs, potential "weapons", I guess—we laid them on the floor.

They said we had to stop shouting—and 150 graduate students, sitting on the floor, began whispering in unison—"What do we want? Contract. When do we want it? Now." We snapped our fingers to keep the beat, replacing the harsh sounds of stamping feet and pounding sticks with the cool intonations of the classic beat. It was eerie. It was powerful. If I had been on the other side, I'd have found this FAR more menacing than the raucous crowd we had been only moments before.

I was walking a picket line outside the Natural Sciences building, talking with a friend on the line, when an undergraduate approached us. She informed us that she wanted to go inside the building to tell her GSI (who was not supporting the walkout) that she could not take her exam until after the walkout was over, because she felt it was morally wrong to turn her back on the graduate students' struggle. It was 11am, and the walkout was scheduled to end at 1:30 that day.

She came back out a few minutes later and told us that he had refused her request to take the exam at 1:30, and implied that she would receive a zero on the exam. As she turned to walk away, she stopped and said "It was totally quiet in the auditorium, because everyone was taking the test. So when I got to the back of the auditorium I turned around and yelled as loud as I could 'GO GEO!'"

We urged her to contact the lecture professor for the course and inform him that her morals would not allow her to cross the picket line, just as other students' religious beliefs compelled them to miss classes and exams on religious holidays.

Russia

A Worker's Collective Committee has taken over a machine-building plant in Yasnogorsk, a town of 20,000 people near Moscow. The 4,200 workers are battling the Communist Party local authority and the Yeltsinite privatization program for the plant. The Yasnogorsk workers say, "This is our revolution" and are appealing for international solidarity.

In 1990, the factory was turned into a joint stock company in which the workers held a majority of shares. Last September the workers and shareholders of the plant dismissed the Administration at a general meeting. When the "owners" of the plant refused to recognize the results, the workers seized control. A workers' committee (the Workers' Collective Soviet) was set up and now oversees administration, production, selling all the finances, distribution of wages

meeting, the workers decided that they would not return to work until everyone had been paid.

The workers have been without pay for 10 months. The misery in Yasnogorsk is tremendous and the population is starving. Last Monday, two workers fainted during meetings in the plant and were hospitalized. Every day one or more workers are attended by doctors. One workers says, "We have nothing except for the potatoes we grow."

The machine-building plant has always been the center of life for the people of Yasnogorsk and the only way to make a living for thousands of workers. The plant is functioning today, and its products are being sold and bartered despite the crisis—this is how the whole town survives. The workers' committee has received financial assistance from trade-unions and other organizations. Money is distributed amongst the poorest and to those who don't even

terms of their wages and conditions, driving those conditions down in order to maximize the profits of employers", said Alex Bukarica, Construction Division Assistant National Secretary, "It's got nothing to do with productivity, it's got nothing to do with protecting the individual. It's about sending up the profits of the multinationals in our industry."

Women's Day Call to Stop Violence

Unions representing 15 million members worldwide urged an end to violence against women. Their call came on International Women's Day (March 8th). Violence affects the lives of millions of women around the globe, warned four international trade union federations -FIET, the Communications International, the International Graphical Federation and the Media and Entertain-

new batch of seeds each year. Pollen from the modified crops can spread to nearby fields and contaminate them, making them sterile. The multinationals have also been patenting plant varieties developed by people in the South and then forcing them to pay royalties for using their own seeds.

Activists on the subcontinent are calling for direct action against Monsanto to be stepped up worldwide, saying "we know that stopping Monsanto in India will not be of much help to us if it continues in other countries as the threats that it poses do not stop at the borders". The call to plowshares has been taken up, with genetically engineered potatoes dug up and used for a game of cricket, and test sites have been destroyed all over Europe. For more information, contact: email, swamy.krs@access.net.in or for genetics actions in the U.K. contact: Genetixsnowball, One World Centre, 6 Mount St., Manchester M2 5NS or at Genetixsnowball@orangenet.co.uk



International Labor News & Headlines



and the town as a whole. However, all the factory bank accounts have been blocked by the authorities and the company has since been declared bankrupt by the courts. The questions now are: who will run the factory in the future and who will buy it later?

The workers realize that if it is sold, they will lose the last shares they still possess and the previous administration will buy them. For this reason the workers are demanding the plant be made state-owned or else have the shares distributed among the workers. The workers and the town see this as a temporary solution and understand they are fighting against the trend towards private property and capitalism.

Last December 10,000 people (led by the workers) from Yasnogorsk marched to block the railway line into Moscow to support demands for the release from prison of the worker-elected directors of the factory and to stop the privatization move. It was only the mobilization of special police forces by the regional administration which prevented the workers from paralyzing one of the main railways in Russia. The two directors, L. Roschenia and V. Dronov were jailed in October but set free as a result of this general strike by the workers and the threat of railway blockades.

On February 22, special police forces were sent in to prevent workers from organizing a standard general meeting. The new court-appointed plant director has issued an order prohibiting all kinds of activity by the worker's committee and trade-union, demanding the end of the strike and threatening to fire all those who disobey. At a joint

have potatoes anymore.

European Counter Network:
samizdat@ecn.org

Australia Government Attacks Building Unions.

The Government in Australia is gearing up for an all-out assault on unions in the building industry. It was revealed last week that the Government was conspiring with building industry employers. The Government has approached building companies with government contracts offering them support during industrial action if the support the current regime of Reith/Howard's agenda.

Companies willing to impose a Code of Practice, devised by the Government, for the industry have been told that their contract will be altered so that deadlines can be changed, and penalties for failing to comply with contractual obligations scrapped.

The Code outlaws unionized sites (closed shops) and allows employers to claim that they have been coerced into workplace agreements, and so opt out of them. In addition, the Government will allow for the extension of time for contracts in order to take away the Union's means to enter into pattern agreements, whereby the union negotiates a standard enterprise agreement which organizers then go out and have applied at the thousands of sites around the country.

"It's all about giving employers a leg-up at the expense of workers. It's about attempting to make building workers suffer in

ments International. "Violence against women cuts across classes and does not respect culture, race, religion, nationality or ethnic origin," said Renata Csorgits, President of FIET's Working Women's Group.

A recent report by the International Labour Organization found that violence at work, for example, is a global problem with many women at risk because they are often in high risk occupations like bank and shop workers, teachers, social workers and nurses or working alone in jobs like cleaning. They are also often the first victims of civil war and crime.

Ecuador

On February 5, dozens of protests were held in Ecuador's major cities to protest economic measures imposed by the six-month old administration of President Jamil Mahuad. The protests were called nationally by the Unitary Workers Front (FUT), the Coordinating Council of Grassroots Movements (CMP), the Popular Front and the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), with support from other union and social sectors. Schools were closed for the day, and some 12,000 police agents were mobilized around the country to prevent disturbances.

India

Monsanto Gets Burned

On Dec. 2nd, three fields of genetically engineered cotton were burned down by Indian farmers in the state of Karnataka. People are organizing nationwide, with the intention of destroying all genetically engineered crops currently being tested by the multinational company Monsanto, and say to its investors "you had rather take your money out before we reduce it to ashes".

Biotech multinationals have been developing wheat, rice and other staples which do not produce seeds, forcing farmers to buy a

Poland

Farmers Blockade the Borders

About three thousand farmers from the Self-Defence Committee, together with two other farmer's organizations began a blockade of one of the main Polish/German border crossings (near Frankfurt am Oder) in January.

They were demanding lower food imports from the EU (European Union). They came armed with scythes and other farm tools. The government threatened the use of force, but the blockade was lifted after a day or two.

One of the leaders of the farmers organizations said that the goal of the protests is "overthrowing the government".

The farmers' problems come from the Russian crisis curtailing the export of food, and making prices fall at home. They also face competition in processed foods imported from the EU.

A couple of days later the blockades were back on with about 900 different roads hit throughout Poland, involving about 4000 farmers. The government insinuated that post-communists sponsored their leaders, and the media also tried to create splits, but unsuccessfully. After police were sent against several blockades, with armored cars and water cannon, the farmers responded with Molotov cocktails, clubs, and threw dung at the police. In most cases the police were unable to break the blockades.

The radio quoted one farmer as saying: "If we can't achieve what we want peacefully, we'll make a bloody revolution!"

The Polish Anarchist Federation (FA) is working with the farmers' organizations, particularly the Self-Defence Committee, which is regarded as more radical. While the issue of vegetarianism is dear to many anarchists' hearts, they also recognize the dangers posed by both the EU and by the far-right trying to win the farmers to their cause. The farmers are self employed and own their own land, and are resisting capitalist expropriation in exactly the same way they resisted the communist state. The FA are trying to link the farmers' struggles in with the "caravan 99" international tour of Indian farmers when it comes to Poland.

6th Annual International Working Class Film & Video Festival

July 1999

San Francisco, CA

USA

CALL FOR VIDEOS & FILMS

LaborFest is now calling for videos for our annual International Working Class Film & Video festival. LaborFest is held in San Francisco every July and is organized to commemorate the 1934 San Francisco General Strike through the cultural arts of working people. Videos and Films can include union struggles, political struggles of labor, locally, nationally and internationally.

The videos should explore the connections between labor and democracy, race, sex, environment, media, war and the capitalist economy. We are looking for videos that challenge practically and ideologically the thinking of working people. The videos will be shown throughout the month of July in San Francisco.

Submit on VHS or Pal ■ English Captions Preferred ■ Open to Amateurs, Students and Professionals ■ Open Format: Drama, Animation, Documentaries

Please send the film or video along with a bio and narrative summary, (electronically, if possible) ■ deadline in June 1, 1999 ■ No form or fee required.

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How To Form A Labor Union

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bargaining agreement, is put in place to secure the gains that workers have made through struggle and sacrifice. In practice, it can be quite a different thing. The union contract is a double-edge sword. It wasn't until 1939 (thirty four years after the IWW was founded) that the IWW even used contracts in the sense that we see them today. Up to that point the IWW had always settled problems on the job with direct action. While contracts can be used to secure gains, they can also be used to bottle the action of a militant rank-and-file. Union contracts as we know them today are inevitably riddled with no-strike clauses. When the right of the workers to stop production is taken away their best and most effective tool in class warfare is taken away.

Acting Union at Your Job

Acting Union is the real meat to any organizing campaign and is the first step into solidifying a serious Union presence. It is important to remember that even if the organizing drive at your workplace falls through it doesn't mean you have to give up hope. You can still act union on the job. Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act states: Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection. Acting union is realizing that the inter-

ests of the workers and the bosses don't always align (in fact most of the time they run in direct opposition to one another) and being a worker you take the side of other workers on your job. You act as a unit to solve workplace problems that are created and maintained by your boss. In addition acting union is a good way to show skeptical workers on the job that a union is to their best interest. For instance, there was a coffee shop that myself and one other IWW member worked in a few years ago. It was a small mom and pop type place with a staff of no more than 20 workers. There was no "official" union in place, but we organized against workplace obstacles as if we were a Union. The pay was low; we were treated disrespectfully by our bosses, and promised pay raises had never come through. All these grievances came to a head one day as we all stood in the kitchen receiving our meager paychecks. We all agreed to meet later that evening (outside of work) to decide on a proper plan of action. That night we talked about what we didn't like and how we thought we could change those things. We made a list of our grievances and elected one worker to go to the bosses and lay those out. That worker made it clear that it wasn't just one or two employees who had a problem, but the entire staff. The following pay day those promised raises had been instituted. It was a good feeling to know that our collective energy could push through demands and have them met.

Direct Action Gets the Goods!

"I don't know of anything that can be applied that will bring as much satisfaction to you, and as much anguish to the boss, a little sabotage in the right place at the right time." Bill Haywood, Founding Member of the IWW>

It is also important to remember that while labor laws are in place, they many not be enforced in a manner that really protects workers. Working people cannot rely on the government and government bodies to aid them in their struggles against the bosses.

They are a resource to be used in a worker's favor, but they are not our only resource. The laws are written in a manner that mainly protects the interests of the bosses. The courts and laws are all on the terms of the bosses, but when we bring issues back down to the workplace then things begin to be put in terms of the workers. The simple fact is that working people run this society. It is by our labor that roads are built, dishes are washed, and books are printed. As the old IWW tune goes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." You could stand in your bosses face all day long and reciting labor laws that pertain to your situation and still have your ass fired. But when the workers start doing things that slow down the profits, the bosses sit up and take notice. This being said then, the question of what to do remains. Through the years, workers have devised various creative ways of forcing their boss to grant demands. These can be work slowdowns, whistle blowing, sit-down strikes, sick-ins dual power, or monkey wrenching.

A work slowdown is exactly what it sounds like; a method that keeps you on the job, but slows down your bosses profit. Railroad workers around the turn of the century in Indiana were notified of a cut in their wages. Immediately, they took their shovels out to the Blacksmith shop and had two inches cut

off of the scoop. They returned to work and told the boss "short pay, short shovels."

Whistle blowing is simply telling people the truth about what goes on at your job. If

you work in a restaurant, for instance, then perhaps you could contact your local health inspector about the rat problem the company has in the kitchen.

The sit-down strike has a long proud history in working class struggles. This tactic was employed by IWW theater extras facing a 50% cut in pay. The 150 extras, dressed as Roman soldiers, waited for their cue to carry the Queen out. When the cue was given they all surrounded the Queen and refused to budge until their pay was not only restored, but tripled!

A sick in is a way to go on strike without really going on strike. The idea is to have a majority, if not all, the workers call in sick thereby crippling business for the day. This tactic is the traditional method used by public employee unions which are legally prevented from going on strike. It is a sift on-and-off method that will be hard for your boss to counter.

Dual Power is basically ignoring the boss. Workers often have the means at their disposal to institute changes on their job-no need to wait for the boss to do it. Monkey Wrenching is a very broad term. It can be defined as any number of tricks or deviltry that reminds the boss how much his or her workers are needed (and how much the workers don't need the boss!). While all these tactics are nonviolent, they are usually illegal and should only be used only during open wholesale class war. This could be anything from creative uses of super glue or "losing" vital workplace items. Perhaps restaurant workers could place a bunch of live crickets or mice (purchased at a local pet store) in the kitchen after hours and then give the Board of Health an anonymous tip. The possibilities are endless, and your creativity is the only limit.

These tactics are all tools for a disgruntled work force to use as a means to gain respect, higher wages or whatever is lacking on the job. Be creative, and you and your fellow and sister workers should be able to use these tactics, modify them, or devise others to fit your specific situation.

David Rovics: "We Just Want the World"

"When I awoke one morning there was a feeling in the air, everything was quiet, things were different everywhere. The Wobblies were back again with Joe Hill on the mike; when all minimum wage workers went out on strike."

**David Rovics
"Minimum Wage Strike"**

David asked if I would review a couple of his CD's. Though a great honor, I honestly know little about reviewing music. The best way I can think of doing this is to tell you a little bit about how I know David and who he is to me.

I met David Rovics at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington in the fall of 1993. We first hung out in a dilapidated old trailer in "the junkyard" where I first heard him play Ochs' "The Scorpion Departs..." He and I and a bunch of other radicals made up a student group on campus called EPIC (Evergreen Political Information Center). We were a pretty tight knit group representing many viewpoints of the left. We were so tight that eight or so of us descended upon our friend Shar's two bedroom apartment and called it a collective.

Cramming so many strong-willed, talented and idealistic people into such a small space turned into a blessing and a circus. The circus is obvious in the math; eight people do not fit comfortably into two bedrooms and a living room. But the blessing is that for nearly six months (yes, 6 months!) we were a family. We were forced to examine many aspects of our lives, ideals and assumptions of life because we had very little room to hide any of it. My life has been honored by knowing those brothers and sisters of #159. David Rovics is one of those brothers.

When we cooked, David played his guitar and sang radical labor songs. When we cleaned, David played. When we were just sitting around, David played. He was constantly working on his art with his own original songs and those of countless revolutionaries that had come before. I had honestly thought I was the only person in their twenties who knew who Phil Ochs was until I met David. David's songs have inspired me and many others throughout the years

and I am so grateful that he was able to pass through Olympia recently for a Steelworker/IWW/Earth First! rally at the capital.

David's CD, *We Just Want the World*, is in the true Wobbly tradition. Songs that tell stories about things that matter and the aspects of life that we live and fight for...some of us die for. David includes his comments in the sleeve; I can't really talk about them any better than he has already except to say which songs stick out in my mind. They are all great. "Minimum Wage Strike" hits close to home. The mobility of capital is evident

Music Review

in which types of jobs are being created today. In Olympia, the main industries are state work, the college or service sector. The Wobblies have always worked to organize the "unskilled." Yesterday's timber workers are today's burger flippers at McGrease.

Again in that Wobbly tradition of sharp social commentary, David is a master. "If I Die Tomorrow" is always a serious consideration in this class war. His hidden track, "The Flag is Just a Rag" can easily become a sing-a-long at the School of America's protest (long live FW Father Bixell).

Wobblies have a long history in the (every shrinking) timber country. David's eulogy for David "Gypsy" Chain is beautiful in its critique of the lies and deceit that try to pit environmentalists against unionists when we all know who the real enemies are. The remake of "I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill" into "Judi Bari" is timely with continued solidarity work with Earth First! in California, Minnesota and here in Washington. "...It takes more than bombs to kill a woman..." yet again reminds us that Judi is a Wobbly hero as well as an Earth First! hero in the ongoing struggle against corporate greed and capitalist slavery.

Utah Phillips said that songs are a better history than you can find in any history book. I have to thank David for songs about Boxcar Betty, Henry Ford and Hugh Thomson, hidden histories that can only inspire or enrage us all. And call me a romantic revolutionary geek, but David, I still get all teary when I hear you play "Ballad of the Proles" now called "Glory and Fame."

Here's to mud on the stick of the boss and steady streams...

Dance and Rev
Eric Chase
X345160

For more information on David Rovics' CD's or where he'll be playing next, please contact him at DRovics@aol.com.

DIRECT ACTION GETS THE GOODS



MSU Students Take Action to Demand Hispanic Major

Hispanic students removed 5,000 books from Michigan State University's library Thursday to demand the creation of a Hispanic-studies major and the hiring of more Hispanic faculty members as well as the creation of Hispanic "culture rooms" in dormitories, and the renaming of the student-services building for the activist Caesar Chavez. The students then returned 4,000 of the books, but vowed to hold onto the remaining 1,000 until their demands were met.

The students removed the books by checking them out with their university identification cards, as they are permitted under Michigan State rules. They then put the books in a truck, drove off, and issued their demands.

The students are members of MEXA, an acronym for the Spanish name of their group, the Chicano Student Movement. Rosa L. Salas, a MEXA member, said the removal of the books was meant to be a "wake-up call" to university administrators who have ignored their concerns.

Books for Rebel Workers

IWW History

The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the Wobblies by Tom Copeland. \$17.50

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Edited by D. Roediger. Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10.

The Great Bisbee Deportation of July 12, 1917 by Rob Hanson. What was the IWW doing that so threatened the establishment of Bisbee, Arizona that it forced them to take such drastic measures to try to bring the union to a halt? Hanson brings the events alive with this easy to read booklet. \$2.00.

Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW. Edited by Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer. A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed but interesting reading. \$11.

Rebel Girl, the autobiography of Elizabeth Gurly Flynn. \$9.95.

One Big Union. by IWW. The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2.00.

Break Their Haughty Power: Joe Murphy in the Heyday of the Wobblies by Eugene Nelson. A fictionalized biography of the many varied trials and tribulations of IWW member Joe Murphy between 1919 and 1924. \$12.

The General Strike. Ralph Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble notes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He develops that idea in this essay. \$2.00

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer by Staughton Lynd. Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$10.

IWW Organizing Manual (2nd Edition) A guide to building the IWW on the job. \$5.

1999 Labor History Calendar Our annual calendar. \$9.

A New Union Vision Arthur J. Miller reflects on the need for revolutionary unions today. \$2.

IWW Little Red Songbook (36th Ed.) 103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10.

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology. Edited by Joyce Kornbluh. A collection of stories, poems, songs and cartoons from the English-language Wobbly press. Just reissued. \$26.

Fellow Workers, Remember! At least 1,300 Wobblies were locked up under 'espionage' and 'criminal syndicalism' frame-ups between 1917 and 1920; this collection documents their plight and IWW efforts to fight the persecution. \$5.

Juice is Stranger Than Friction by T-Bone Slim. Edited by Franklin Rosemont. Selected writings from a working stiff, hobo and irreconcilable revolutionary; utterly unqualified in any literary respectability. \$9.

Memoirs of a Wobbly by Henry E. McGuckin. This lively narrative by an old-time Wobbly is unlike any other book on the IWW. Although "Mac" knew many of the best known Wobs of his day, his purpose here is not to discuss prominent personalities or world famous events, but to tell of the tens of thousands of militant rank & filers who, in the 1910's, made the IWW one of the grandest labor unions the world has ever seen. \$5.

A Little Working Class Sense by Gilbert Mers. In a series of essays that are long overdue this working class Wobbly breaks down the class issue in a way that is simple and concise. Highly recommended for those at the bottom of the capitalist system. \$2.

1923 IWW Songbook Facsimile reprint of IWW songs. \$5.

Rebel Voices IWW songs sung by IU 630 Wobs. Tape \$10

We Have Fed You All For 1,000 Years Utah Phillips sings IWW songs. Tape \$10

Baseball Caps Black globe on red cap. Adjustable sizing. \$9.

IWW Buttons
Fire Your Boss. \$1
Black Cat/Direct Action. \$1.
IWW Globe—circled by the motto "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red. \$1.50.

Posters by Carlos Cortez Lucy Parson, Ben Fletcher, Joe Hill or Mother Jones. \$25.

Labor History

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher. A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday life and rank & file initiative. \$22.

Dishing It Out: Waitresses and Their Unions in the 20th Century by Dorothy Cobble. \$7.50.

The New Class War: Reagan's Attack on the Welfare State and Its Consequences by F. Piven & R. Cloward. \$4.25.

Homestead: The Glory & Tragedy of an American Steel Town by William Serrin. Chronicles the 1892 strike, the boom times and the city's slow death in the 1970's and 80's. pub'd at \$25. Our price \$12.

The Rise of Public Woman by Glenna Mathews. Woman's power and woman's place in the U.S. 1630-1970. \$12.

American Women in the Progressive Era by Dorothy & Carl Schneider. Change, challenge and the struggle for women's rights. \$10.

Proletarians of the North: Mexican Industrial Workers in the Midwest by Zaragosa Vargas. Compelling history of the struggles of Mexican workers who migrated to the Midwest between the First World War and the Great Depression. \$15.

We Are All Leaders: The Alternative Unionism of the Early 1930's by Staughton Lynd. Workers were taking charge of our own destiny before the State and labor fakers intervened. Includes Wob Mike Kozura's account of coal miners seizing the mines to operate them themselves. \$21.95.

Work Without End: Abandoning Shorter Hours for the Right to Work by Benjamin Hunnicutt. \$15.

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning by Sam Dolgoff. A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militancy and offers his vision of building a new, radical, rank & file labor movement. \$5.

Sacco & Vanzetti, The Anarchist Background by Paul Avrich. Hardcover, 265 pages. \$15.

Haymarket Scrapbook. Edited by Dave Roediger & Franklin Rosemont. \$15.

The Revolution Within the Revolution: Workers' Control in Rural Portugal by Nancy Barneo. A resurgent, revolutionary agrarian movement during "The Revolution of the Carnations" and its aftermath. \$15.

Work and Labor by Judy Gail. An eclectic narrative weaving together stories and songs to create a kid-friendly history of work. \$25.

Queen of Bohemia: The Life of Louise Bryant by Mary Dearborn. A pioneering foreign correspondent, a fervent crusader for social causes, and a champion of sexual freedom. \$13.50.

Emma Goldman in Exile: The Russian Revolution to the Spanish Civil War by Alice Wexler. \$14.

Autobiography of Mother Jones. Foreword by M. LeSeur. Intro by Clarence Darrow. Tribute by Debs. Afterword by Fred Thompson. \$15.

A Generation of Boomers: Patterns of Railroad Labor Conflict in 19th Century America by Shelton Stromquist. \$10.

A People Betrayed—November 1918: A German Revolution by Alfred Döblin. \$16.

American Rubber Workers and Organized Labor by Daniel Nelson. An in-depth look at the rubber workers struggles, victories and contributions to the birth of the modern American labor movement. \$9.

The Case for Leonard Peltier A must read for anyone desiring to understand the modern American Indian Movement. \$3.

Classroom's First by Jason Justice. A good overview of the Oakland teachers' strike and their bold stand against the establishment. \$2.

Colorado's War on Militant Unionism by George G. Suggs, Jr. By far the best book available on the great hard-rock miners' labor strikes during 1903 and 1904. \$4.

The Fight Against Shutdowns: Youngstown's Steel Mill Closings by Staughton Lynd. This book honestly puts forward the facts on a day to day and crisis by crisis basis. It lays out what can happen to a community and the interplay of forces that impact our real lives. \$10.

The Flivver King: A Story of Ford-America by Upton Sinclair. Two stories unfold at the same time: those of Henry Ford and of Ford worker Abner Shutt. A telling account of the realities and discrepancies of life in Ford-America, told as only Upton Sinclair could. \$7.

Hard-Pressed in the Heartland by Peter Rachleff. This account P-9's struggle against Hormel & the UFCW suggests the possibility of a militant, rank & file, community based unionism. This is the story of the Hormel strike and what it means to the future of the labor movement. \$5.

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico Today by Dan LaBotz. Using scores of interviews with Mexican rank & file workers, labor officials, women's organizations, lawyers and human rights' activists, LaBotz illustrates the precarious position of workers in the Mexican economy in the 1990's. \$12.

Roll The Union On: A Pictorial History of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union by H. L. Mitchell. One of the most exciting and inspiring stories of the modern American labor movement; the story of the STFU and its long and bitter struggle for a better life for the down-trodden sharecroppers of the south. \$15.

Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry by Priscilla Long. A captivating and moving account of one of the most dramatic and influential periods of industrial history. \$10.

Available from IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

Wildcat, says 'Direct Action!' above graphic. Black on white. (M, L, XL) \$12 each, SF GMB, PO Box 40485, San Francisco CA 94140

IWW Globe, black on red. (L, XL) \$17 each, P&L Printing, 2298 Clay Dr. Denver, C) 80211

Viva EZLN, red & black on white. (L only) \$12 each, Detroit GMB, 3570 W. Vernor, Detroit, MI 48216

OUTSIDE U.S.

Canadian Little Red Songbook \$5
36th Edition Int'l Songbook \$10
c/o Joe Chang, 137 Roncesvalles #208, Toronto, ONT M6R 2L2

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36th Edition Int'l Songbook £4, post-paid. A selection of literature is available from:

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Solidarity

continued from page 7

Oil and Occidental in Colombia

According to the U'wa Defense Working Group, "...it is critical to understand the cycle of violence in Colombia which created the conditions in which these killings took place. Oil is Colombia's most important export commodity, and is therefore a strategic target in Colombia's ongoing civil war. Guerrilla factions target these areas for bombings and other acts of violence. In response, the Colombian government has increasingly militarized areas of oil exploration and production. The real victims of militarized areas of oil exploration and production. The real victims of the conflict are the local peoples and their supporters." The beginning of this cycle in the U'wa territory coincided with Occidental Petroleum's efforts to drill on their land. The upswing of violence in this region can only be expected to increase, taking with it the lives of more innocent peace-loving people, as long as Occidental Petroleum continues its oil project. We call on Occidental to suspend its operations and withdraw its application to drill on U'wa ancestral lands. This is the single most important step towards fostering peace in the region."

The Victims

Ingrid Washinawatok, 41, of the Menominee nation of Wisconsin had been an advocate of native peoples since she was in her teens. She worked on behalf of native peoples around the world and throughout Central America.

Lahe'ena'e Gay, 39, was the Director of Pacific Cultural Conservancy International, Hawaii which works to preserve native cultures on and inside the Pacific rim. Terence Freitas, 24, was a seasoned U'wa supporter and had organized the expedition from which these three US activists were kidnapped and assassinated.

The group was in Columbia to help the indigenous U'wa people in their continuing fight against Occidental petroleum of Los Angeles. They were helping to organize schools among the 8,000 member U'wa nation. One week after their arrival, gunmen dressed as civilians kidnapped them as well as two Indian activists and one Colombian activist.

The U'wa Nation

(From an article titled, "The U'wa: the 'thinking people' of Colombia" co-written by Terence Freitas in Yes! A Journal of Positive Futures, Spring 1999 issue: Economics as if Life Matters)

"The U'wa are known as 'the thinking people' or 'the people that speak well,' because for thousands of years they maintained peaceful relationships with surround-

ing tribes without the use of weapons or war.

"From 1940 to 1970, the Colombian government took away more than 85% of U'wa traditional territory. Since 1940, disease, violence, and loss of land have killed more than 18,000 U'wa. Two U'wa clans were completely exterminated. The current territory of the U'wa is barely 386 square miles, far too small to produce enough food to sustain the tribe.

"In 1992, Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum was granted exploration rights to much of the traditional U'wa territory in a combined venture with Shell Oil and the Colombian government.

"U'wa tradition recounts that a portion of the U'wa tribe committed suicide 400 years ago rather than surrender to the Spanish Conquistadores. The U'wa have compared current developments on their land to that time in their history, and have not ruled out another mass suicide.

"The U'wa Indians won a 1997 lawsuit against Occidental Petroleum which prevented the Los Angeles-based company from conducting oil exploration on their territory. (Actually, Occidental has only pulled out of 75% of their original drilling area and is continuing with their plans to drill in the remaining 25%)."

Five Centuries of Genocide Continue...

From Cecilia Rodriguez, US Representative of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation: "Ingrid was in Colombia visiting a group of Indians, who of course are threatened by genocide, and on the way back she was kidnapped and later killed. In my numbness all I can do is write. I write and ask the same question I asked after I was raped. I can write and ask the same question I did after Aguas Blancas, after Acteal, the same question which rings in my head today. Why? When will it end? How many more must die?

"In these days when my body is wracked with exhaustion in the struggle to explain to people why they must act, the question is one which each day demands an answer. An answer buried under the tons of paper of the insane foreign policy of this country which sanctions plunder, and displacement, and impoverishment and yes 'genocide.'

"And I remember on one of the first trips I made to Washington D.C., describing the situation of the Zapatistas an American Indian woman brought up the word 'genocide' in front of a roomful of bureaucrats, and Indian representatives, and press people. And a severe criticism was embedded in the hushed room during the long meeting. 'Don't you think you're exaggerating using that word genocide...it is such a dramatic word..'. What is wrong with a society that cannot acknowledge brutality which is supposed to be ignored, because the victims of it, Indians, are invisible? And I remember Ingrid's bright round eyes and the way they would fill with tears when she would hear the

stories over and over again, when she would tap that well of sorrow which she knew so well as an American Indian whose people had faced the same genocide 150 years before. And I know somehow that at the moment of her death, she had no regrets about the way she had lived her life. The things that she had believed, the things that she had fought for, the hundreds of meetings and conferences and consultations and tours and articles that she had worked together with other Indian women in the hope of giving voice to the reality of Indians all over the world. In the hope that if this voice screamed loud enough, somehow this would make it stop.

"And now I also imagine the pundits at the State Department are running through the official halls trying to figure out what 'spin' they will put on Ingrid's death. 'How will we explain the death of three Americans? A tragic accident, a travesty, a dramatic exposure of the need to continue to tragic accident, a travesty, a dramatic exposure of the need to continue to fund the Drug War—because of course all the violence in Latin America is laid at the feet of the Drug War. There are so many factions, the pundits will say, terrible, confusing situation, warn Americans to stay away, they will postulate.' Ignore the oil companies and their plunder. Ignore the exploitative trade agreements which deny farmers their livelihood. Ignore the crumbling national governments which melt under the weight of the International Monetary Fund. Ignore the corrupt police and Army forces. Ignore the burgeoning social movements which erupt everywhere in search of hope, in search of something better than this devastation. This is the third world, the neoliberal pundits say, and the Third World will be saved soon—maybe twenty five more years of blood and suffering but eventually all of Latin America will join the first world and everyone will have a VCR and a Chevy in their garage. Indians will become integrated and happy.

"And Ingrid's death joins the list of the thousands who have died giving witness to something that is terribly wrong with humanity today—this obscene imbalance that imbues a few with more wealth than they can ever use in their entire lives, and condemns the large majority to nothing but a in their entire lives, and condemns the large majority to nothing but a march, a protest, a hunger strike, a land occupation, a gun, a hardened, wrinkled hand bunched together in a fist."

Bringing Peace Back to Colombia

From Julie Freitas, mother of Terence Freitas: "I have learned from U'wa elders that my son Terence sent his spirit to them in a dream last week. In this dream, Terence gave the elders a snail shell, which to the U'wa symbolizes peace and problem solving. Let this urgent plea from my son spread

from the sacred land of the U'wa, from Kajka Ika, the heart of the world, throughout Colombia, throughout the international community. Let people everywhere respond to this tragedy by working to bring peace to Columbia so that communities like the U'wa may continue to preserve human life and the dignity of the land.

"Before his death, Terence helped write a report about the U'wa people called, 'Blood of Our Mother.' The report prophetically states, 'Colombian President-elect Andres Pastrana has a tremendous opportunity in this crisis. A promising peace process between the guerrillas and the government may allow the space for cooler heads to prevail. Human rights government may allow the space for cooler heads to prevail. Human rights may yet triumph over multinational corporate interests.'"

Hope

As the multinational corporations of the world increase their strong-arm tactics: murdering activists, stealing people's traditional territories, forcing poor countries to export resources, and creating trade agreements which exempt them from environmental and human rights laws, people involved with justice movements around the globe have begun to respond. They have begun the long slow process of unification, without which their efforts are doomed to be crushed, one by one.

This is our path to freedom. When our movements come together, to create a massive revolutionary body for change, the walls will come down. We can all work for that day. We have done it successfully here in Vermont. Environmental groups support the Zapatista movement; social justice groups became involved in the struggle which successfully stopped the spraying of herbicides on our forests; a huge coalition of groups came out in revolutionary voice and helped to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal when his death warrant was signed in 1995. It can be done. It must be done.

Solidarity is our best opportunity to succeed.

For more information on the U'wa, or to obtain their information booklet, "Blood of our Mother", contact Project Underground, 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703; E-mail: project_underground@moles.org; Web: <http://uwa.moles.org>

For info on what you can do to help, contact: Shannon Wright, Rainforest Action Network (415) 398-4404 x316 or (415) 920-9809 / amazonia@ran.org

Thanks to ACERCA for their assistance in writing this article.



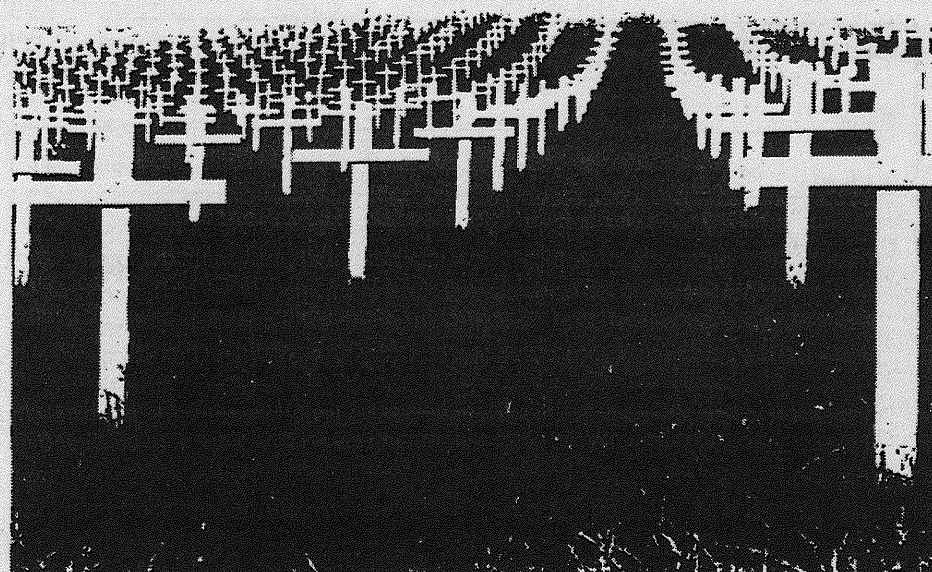
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To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$1,000: \$5 per month; Income \$1,000-2,000: \$10 monthly; Over \$2,000: Dues \$15. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

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